Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02838 100832Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3833

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: YMCA AFRICAN TOUR

FOR CU

WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT YMCA TOUR CONTAINS IN PRACTICE A LARGE ELEMENT OF TOURISM, BELIEVE THAT ITS OBJECTIVES ARE SERIOUS AND THAT BOTH THE LEADERSHIP AND THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD LIKE IT TO BE SOMETHING MORE. ALL SEEMED GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO LEARN AND TO EXCHANGE IDEAS. WE ALSO FOUND THAT THEY WERE ACCEPTED AND WELCOMED LOCALLY AS INFLUENTIAL AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH WHOM SENEGALESE COULD COMMUNICATE THEIR CONCERNS TO IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF AMERICAN OPINION. EVIDENCE OF THIS WAS THE FACT THAT THEY WERE RECEIVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND TWO OTHER MINISTERS (CULTURE, URBANISM AND PUBLIC WORKS). THEY WERE DELIGHTED TO FIND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WENT BEYOND MERE PROTOCOL AND BROACHED SERIOUS SUBJECTS, NOTABLY THE DROUGHT, DURING THEIR VISIT IN HIS OFFICE.

THE TOUR WAS EXTREMELY WELL ORGANIZED AND HAD VERY COMPETENT LEADERSHIP. BELIEVE THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CU SUPPORT TO PROMOTE INCLUSION LARGER NUMBER OF BLACK PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE VERY WORTHWHILE AND MIGHT ACT AS FURTHER INCENTIVE TO ORIENT TOUR IN DIRECTION OF REGULAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

CLARK

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